CLAIMS ACTIVITY

The number of individuals collecting regular unemployment benefits increased for the first time in six months in August. The regular benefits claims load averaged 120,493 per week during the month, approximately 29,122 more than the July total.

The 32 percent increase was primarily due to model changeover in the automotive industry. In August 1987, the number of claimants drawing benefits under the regular benefit program averaged 138,592, or approximately 15 percent higher than the present total.

WEEKLY CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Week Ending	Michigan			Detroit		
	Total	Initial	Continued	Total	Initial	Continued
August 06, 1988	150,600	17,900	132,700	78,000	9,700	68,300
August 13, 1988	140,200	16,600	123,600	76,700	8,700	68,000
August 20, 1988	122,100	15,000	107,100	66,200	9,000	57,200
August 27, 1988	112,000	14,100	97,900	58,800	6,800	52,000

HIGHER HOUSING COSTS CAUSES DETROIT PRICES TO INCREASE

Consumer prices in the Detroit metropolitan area increased from 115.4 in June to 117.6 in August. The increase in Detroit area prices was primarily due to higher costs for housing and medical care. Prices in the area climbed by 4.8 percent since August 1987, when the consumer price index stood at 112.2. At the national level, the cost of living advanced by four-tenths of a percent to reach 119.0 during the month.

The higher national prices were due to additional costs for transportation and food. Between August 1987 and August 1988, national consumer prices increased by four percent. One year ago, the national index registered 114.4. Note: Beginning in January 1988, the Consumer Price Indexes were shifted to a new reference base year. All indexes expressed on a 1967=100, were rebased to 1982-1984=100.

HOURS AND EARNINGS

The average workweek of Michigan workers in manufacturing industries increased to 42.4 hours in August. The increase occurred primarily as a result of additional hours worked by individuals in the automotive industry.

During the month average hourly earnings dropped by four cents to $13.18, while average weekly earnings decreased by $10.20 to total $558.83. In August 1987, earnings averaged $12.76 an hour or $529.54 per week for a 41.5 hour workweek.

MICHIGAN'S HOURS AND EARNINGS

Industry	Average Hourly Earnings a/			Average Weekly Hours a/			Average Weekly Earnings a/		
	Aug 1988	Jul 1988	Aug 1987	Aug 1988	Jul 1988	Aug 1987	Aug 1988	Jul 1988	Aug 1987
TOTAL MANUFACTURING	$558.83	$548.63	$529.54	42.4	41.5	41.5	$13.18	$13.22	$12.76
DURABLE GOODS	591.92	580.60	554.44	42.8	41.8	41.5	13.83	13.89	13.36
Primary Metal Products	604.30	610.30	547.33	43.6	43.5	42.2	13.86	14.03	12.97
Fabricated Metal Products	538.07	521.38	509.56	41.2	39.8	40.7	13.06	13.10	12.52
Nonelectrical Machinery	581.16	589.63	558.54	43.5	44.3	42.8	13.36	13.31	13.05
Electrical Machinery	490.59	447.93	452.35	43.3	40.5	40.9	11.33	11.06	11.06
Motor Vehicles & Equip.	705.91	680.61	637.85	43.9	42.3	41.5	16.08	16.09	15.37
NONDURABLE GOODS	453.61	445.09	445.05	41.2	40.5	41.4	11.01	10.99	10.75
Contract Construction	638.64	668.98	608.38	40.6	41.5	39.2	15.73	16.12	15.52
Department Stores	180.52	179.29	186.62	28.7	29.2	28.8	6.29	6.14	6.48

a/ Average weekly and hourly earnings are computed from aggregates of individual establishment reports utilizing the total amount paid to production workers and total production hours. Average weekly and hourly earnings differ from weekly and hourly rates in that they are affected by overtime wage rates, part-time earnings, the length of the workweek, etc.

Note: *Current month data are preliminary.*

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES
AUGUST 1988 (Preliminary)

Area	Civilian Labor Force	Total Employment	Total Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
United States	123,396,000	116,737,000	6,659,000	5.4
Michigan	4,662,000	4,337,000	325,000	7.0
Major Labor Markets				
Ann Arbor MSA	164,200	158,100	6,200	3.7
Battle Creek MSA	66,400	62,200	4,200	6.3
Benton Harbor MSA	80,300	75,600	4,700	5.8
Detroit MSA	2,239,000	2,070,000	169,000	7.6
Flint MSA	200,700	170,700	29,900	14.9
Grand Rapids MSA	365,000	347,900	17,000	4.7
Jackson MSA	65,200	61,100	4,100	6.3
Kalamazoo MSA	117,000	111,800	5,200	4.4
Lansing MSA	237,900	225,500	12,400	5.2
Muskegon MSA	70,100	65,000	5,100	7.2
Saginaw-Bay-Midland MSA	191,300	180,100	11,200	5.9
Upper Peninsula LMA	138,200	130,200	8,000	5.8
Major Counties (15,000+)				
Allegan	57,950	55,400	2,550	4.4
Barry	22,125	20,825	1,300	5.9
Bay	54,750	51,675	3,075	5.6
Branch	18,275	17,050	1,225	6.8
Cass	24,075	23,075	1,000	4.2
Clinton	29,425	27,900	1,525	5.2
Delta	16,475	15,375	1,100	6.7
Eaton	51,175	48,975	2,225	4.3
Grand Traverse	38,750	36,950	1,800	4.7
Gratiot	18,025	16,675	1,375	7.6
Hillsdale	20,400	18,900	1,500	7.3
Huron	16,600	15,450	1,175	7.0
Ingham	157,275	148,600	8,675	5.5
Ionia	19,600	17,900	1,675	8.6
Isabella	27,775	26,750	1,025	3.7
Kent	269,475	256,175	13,275	4.9
Lapeer	32,700	30,350	2,350	7.2
Lenawee	42,350	38,925	3,400	8.1
Livingston	54,525	50,250	4,275	7.8
Macomb	384,000	357,725	26,275	6.8
Marquette	28,975	27,525	1,450	5.0
Midland	35,875	34,550	1,300	3.6
Monroe	63,425	59,725	3,700	5.8
Montcalm	22,350	20,700	1,650	7.4
Newaygo	17,600	16,350	1,250	7.1
Oakland	591,150	553,650	37,525	6.3
Ottawa	95,475	91,750	3,725	3.9
Saginaw	100,700	93,875	6,825	6.8
St. Clair	66,475	61,200	5,275	7.9
St. Joseph	27,850	25,900	1,950	7.0
Sanilac	21,375	19,975	1,400	6.6
Shiawassee	36,300	33,050	3,250	9.0
Tuscola	23,850	21,575	2,275	9.5
Van Buren	33,400	31,050	2,350	7.1
Wayne	1,046,525	956,625	89,900	8.6

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